Investigation Team for giving impetus to the investigation and inquiries in the case as also to try and get information regarding the whereabouts of the 4 foreign nationals who continue to remain untraced despite efforts. It has also announced a scheme of rewards to persons giving specific information regarding the whereabouts of the hostages. Regular and continuous interaction is being maintained by the Government of India with the State Government in respect of this issue.

Slippages in the Power Capacity Addition

2899. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned Capacity addition slippages to worsen power shortage reported in the "Hindustan Times' dated the 16th October, 1996;

(b) if so, whether Government have identified the factors responsible for massive slippages during the current Plan period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to check slippages and to improve power situation in the country;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES. (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The general and broad factors contributing to the delays in the implementation of power projects have been delays in taking up infrastructural and enabling works, paucity of funds and inadequate cash flow to project authorities, delays in placing orders for generating equipments and in award of contracts for civil works/erection of equipment, delayed deliveries and nonsequential supplies, contract failures, law and orders problems and natural calamities like floods, land slides etc.

(d) In order to ensure the timely commissioning of power projects which are under execution, Ministry of Power and the Central Electricity Authority are closely monitoring the progress of these projects and rendering timely assistance wherever required, by taking up the matter with the concerned authorities.

Projects Undertaken by the National Laboratories

2900. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the individual and total expenditure by the National Laboratories under the Ministry in the country, during the last three years;

(b) how many projects sponsored by Government have been undertaken by the National Laboratories during the same period; and

(c) how many projects of Government have been shared by other institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) The yearwise aggregated Government expenditure on 40 National Laboratories of CSIR during the past three years is placed at statement (*see* below)

(b) Over the past three years period 1993-94 to 1995-96 Government has sponsored around 1250 projects in the national laboratories of CSIR.

(c) The Government invariably sponsors projects with CSIR for utilising the output for the social, economic or environmental benefit of the country.